

# WASHINGTON STATE

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

### MONTHLY REPORT

*December 2003*

CATEGORY	DEC 2003	DEC 2002	YTD 03	YTD 02
CSEPP INCIDENTS	8	4	44	29
DOE INCIDENTS	0	1	13	8
FIRE	7	22	505	402
HAZMAT	136	156	1727	1895
OTHER	25	17	260	276
911 OUTAGES	3	4	34	48
SAR	42	36	607	658
TERRORIST	0	0	1	1
WEATHER	8	7	59	56
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	229	247	3250	3373

#### LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On December 4, the first in a series of severe weather storms brought high winds and heavy snows throughout much of the state. Wind gusts reaching as high as 80 mph were recorded in areas of the foothills of the central and northern Cascades causing in excess of 100,000 power outages throughout the region. Several local jurisdictions reported a number of homes had received damage due to toppled trees.

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- On December 8, the State Emergency Management Division was notified by the Umatilla Chemical Depot at 1357 hours that a GB chemical agent had been detected and confirmed in a Personnel Decontamination Station (PDS) and this PDS was currently under filtration. This GB agent detection was the result of personnel decontaminating their equipment after vapor agent operations in Igloo #1841. The state EOC activated to Phase II make appropriate notifications and monitor the event. The state EOC returned to Phase I Normal Operations at 1555 when Umatilla reported all monitoring of the Igloo was negative.
- On December 11, heavy snow impacted most of the Cascades and parts of northeast Washington as a new storm front entered the state. As much as 2 feet of new snow fell closing Interstate 90 due to a high avalanche danger and severe driving conditions.
- On December 12, another series of storms impacted most of western Washington and parts of eastern Washington, with gale force winds along the coastal and interior waterways and heavy snow in the Cascades and northeast mountains.
- On December 13, a search was conducted in King County for a female avalanche victim near Snow Lake. Additional resources were coordinated from Kittitas, Pierce, Yakima, and Snohomish Counties to assist. The search was suspended without results late on December 15.
- On December 17, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to Phase 2 Enhanced Operations at 1536 hours when a Limited Area Emergency was declared at the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot due to GB chemical agent being detected at Igloo 1841. The leaking munitions were located, over-packed and transported to Igloo 1881 for storage. The event terminated at 1720 hrs and the State EOC resumed Phase 1 Normal Operations.
- On December 20, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to Phase 2 Enhanced Operations at 1210 hours when a Limited Area Emergency was declared at the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot. A 750 pound bomb with GB chemical agent was detected leaking in Igloo 1841. The

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emergency was terminated late in the evening the same day when the leak was contained and final clean-up was completed.

- On December 21 at 1045 hours, the State EOC activated to Phase II Enhanced Operations in response to the Homeland Security Advisory System increasing the National Threat Level to Orange. No threat specific to Washington State has been identified.
- On December 22, the Marine Safety Office - Puget Sound increased the Maritime Security Level to MARSEC II for all Puget Sound and Strait of Juan De Fuca ports.
- On December 23, another storm system approached Washington State prompting the National Weather Service to begin issuing a Gale Warning for Camano Island to Point Roberts and a Winter Storm Watch for Okanogan and Douglas counties. All weather events terminated on December 25 without major impact.
- On December 26, the US Department of Agriculture confirmed the nations first case of Mad Cow Disease had been discovered in Washington State.
- On December 27, a Winter Storm Warning was issued for the Olympic and Cascade Mountains. All warnings were canceled on December 28 without major impact.
- On December 29 the National Weather in Portland issued a Heavy Snow Warning for the City of Vancouver and the remainder of Clark County coupled with a Winter Storm Warning for the Western Columbia Gorge. All warnings were canceled on December 29 without major impact.
- On December 30, Chevron Texaco Products Company reported a spill of possibly up to 50 barrels (2,100 gallons) of crude oil at the Richmond Beach, "Point Wells" storage facility in Snohomish County. The fuel oil spill is from a barge that was transferring product to holding tanks on the beach. Clean Sound and MSRC were hired to clean-up the spill. NW Ecology, Fish & Wildlife and USCG reported to the scene to monitor the clean-up operation. As daylight came and the investigation continued, it was determined that 6000 gallons was spilled (1,200 gallons on the barge deck and 4,800 gallons into the water). As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, the clean-up effort was continuing. The State EOC will continue to monitor the situation.

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- On December 30 the National Weather in Portland issued a Heavy Snow Watch for Clark Cowlitz, Pacific, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties. Additionally the NWS Seattle issued a winter snow advisory with expectations of 1-3 inches of snow. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, some minor snowfall had occurred across the area, with more snow expected later in the week.
  
- For the month of December, 2003 the SEOO's:
  - Issued 128 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Issued 58 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Conducted 921 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Coordinated 12 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
  - Participated in 25 exercises of which 13 were vessel spill drills
  - Made 1195 and answered 1433 telephone calls
  - Conducted 1829 National Warning System Tests, conducted 284 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
  - Conducted 59 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
  - Conducted 7 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
  - Conducted 8 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)
  - Conducted 51 down wind trajectory connectivity communications tests with the Umatilla Military Storage Depot (D2PUFF)

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